REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 1-10 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, and 7 have been amended. No claim has been added or canceled.

Claims 2 and 7 have been amended to correct minor informalities. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to enter the amendments.

In the Office Action, the Examiner set forth a number of informalities in claims 1, 5, and 6. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claims 1, 5, and 6 to remove the informalities. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments have overcome the objections. Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

The Examiner objected to the use of the terms, "synchronized," "synchronously," and "asynchronously" in claims 1 and 6 respectively because the Examiner believed that these terms are normally related to the time characteristic of signals or data being transferred between two or more systems (Office Action, p. 2, section 2.(iii)). Furthermore, the Examiner interpreted "synchronized" to refer to the initialization of two systems to the same state in relatively rough sense, and equates "asynchronous" to "autonomous" for situations when a master-slave pair loses the connection in between. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's interpretation.

According to Webster's II New College Dictionary (© 2001), one of the meanings of the verb, to synchronize, is "to operate in unison." Therefore, the uses of "synchronized" and the related words in the Specification and claims 1 and 6 do not deviate from the meaning of the word according to the dictionary. Furthermore, the Specification does not equate "asynchronous" to "autonomous" for situations when a master-slave pair loses the connection in between. The Specification teaches that, "although local master 102 and global master server 101 *may* subsequently operate asynchronously, the factory or service center is able to continue operating

autonomously" (Specification, p. 13, paragraph 2; emphasis added). For at least the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the objection.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-7, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rogers et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 20010007086; hereinafter, "Rogers") in view of Paxhia et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 20020052935; hereinafter, "Paxhia") and Walls et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,348,933; hereinafter, "Walls"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

Claim 1 as amended teaches the global master, local master and slave servers being programmed the same and configurable to different tasks, including *automatically configurable* as a master or a slave server based on the interface of the server to which they are coupled (Claim 1, emphasis added). In the Office Action, the Examiner admitted that Rogers does not disclose the global master, local master and slave servers being programmed the same and configurable to different tasks, including automatically configurable as a master or a slave server based on the interface of the server to which they are coupled. Applicant respectfully submits that neither Paxhia nor Walls discloses a global master, a local master, and slave servers being automatically configurable as a master or a slave server based on the interface of the server to which they are coupled.

In particular, Paxhia discloses that a user selects the server he needs to administer and upon selecting a server and an action, a page is presented at the browser by the administration server, which will allow further configuration (Paxhia, paragraph 43; emphasis added). The server in Paxhia is not automatically configurable based on the interface of the server because the user has to select the server and an action. Therefore, not only does Paxhia fail to disclose a global master, a local master, and slave servers being automatically configurable as a master or a slave server based on the interface of the server to which they are coupled, Paxhia teaches away from claim 1. One of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to look into Paxhia to solve the

problem the Applicant faced with. Therefore, claim 1 is not obvious over Rogers in view of Paxhia and Walls. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Furthermore, Walls fails to disclose a global master, a local master, and slave servers being automatically configurable as a master or a slave server based on the interface of the server to which they are coupled. Walls merely discloses that a copy of the software product is installed in each of the hosts 300-308 and each of the installed copies would be configured to behave either as a master server or a slave server as appropriate (Walls, col. 5, lines 13-18). Walls does not disclose that the hosts are automatically configurable as a master or a slave server based on the interface of the server to which they are coupled. Since a combination of Rogers, Paxhia, and Walls does not include every limitation of claim 1, claim 1 is patentable over Rogers in view of Paxhia and Walls for at least this reason. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection.

Claims 2-7, and 10 depend from claim 1. Therefore, claims 2-7, and 10 are patentable over Rogers in view of Paxhia and Walls for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection.

Furthermore, claims 3-5 teaches the communication over the first network is secure, encrypted, or secured via Secure Shell (SSH) respectively. The Examiner admitted that Rogers in view of Paxhia and Walls do not disclose these limitations (Office Action, p. 5, section 7). However, the Examiner took official notice that securing transactions over network is well known in the art. The Examiner further argued that it would have been obvious to have secure communication over the first network because the system in Rogers uses the first network to transfer business information, which has to be protected from being intercepted by any third party (Office Action, p. 5-6, section 7). Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner.

Applicant respectfully traverses the official notice taken by the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that the use of the particular security measure, such as encryption, or SSH, with the server network as claimed is not well known in the art.

Furthermore, Rogers does not express any concern on the security of the information transferred on the network. The disclosure that the system in Roger may transfer billing information does not provide sufficient motivation to combine the system with secured communication. It is well known that billing information is not necessarily delivered in a secured manner, such as, for example, bank statements and credit card bills, which are often delivered with other non-billing related materials using non-secured postal services. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would not be motivated by Rogers to combine secured communication via SSH or encryption with the system in Rogers. For at least these reasons in addition to the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1, claims 3-5 are patentable over Rogers in view of Paxhia and Walls. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.
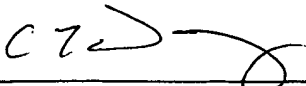
The Examiner rejected claims 8-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rogers, Paxhia, and Walls, further in view of Steens (U.S. Patent No. 6,038,486). Note that Applicant reserves the right to swear behind the references. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. For at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 8-9 are patentable over Rogers, Paxhia, and Walls, further in view of Steens. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the objections and rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) have been overcome by the amendments and the remarks. Withdrawal of these objections and rejections is respectfully requested. Applicant submits that claims 1-10 as amended are now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.
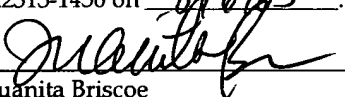
Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: 8/6 , 2003

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8/6/03
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